

Claims

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A computer system maintained by an issuing financial institution, the issuing financial institution issuing at least one credit card account to a consumer, the computer system comprising:

at least one memory storing data representative of an original line of credit amount available for purchases using said credit card account, and an identification of a linked deposit account, said deposit account maintained at a second financial institution other than said issuing financial institution;

an interface to receive at least one credit card transaction message via a payment network, said transaction message containing a transaction amount;

at least one processor, communicably connected to said interface and said at least one memory, said at least one processor programmed with logic for:

reducing an available credit limit of said at least one credit card account based at least in part on said transaction amount associated with said at least one credit card transaction message,

determining an automatic deduction amount based at least in part on the result of adding the transaction amounts of each of said at least one credit card transaction messages received during a predetermined deduction cycle,

automatically initiating a direct debit at the conclusion of said predetermined deduction cycle to said deposit account maintained at said second financial institution in the amount of said automatic deduction amount, and

refreshing, in response to successful completion of said direct debit, said available credit limit to the full amount of said original line of credit amount.

22. (New) The financial transaction payment system of claim 21, wherein said predetermined deduction cycle is agreed upon by said consumer at the time said at least one credit card account is set up.

23. (New) The financial transaction payment system of claim 21, wherein said predetermined deduction cycle is determined by the issuing financial institution.

24. (New) The financial transaction payment system of claim 21, wherein said at least one processor is further programmed with logic for generating on a regular basis a billing statement containing a listing of each separate purchase made using said credit card account and containing a listing of each credit posted to said credit card account from said deposit account as a result of said automatically initiating a direct debit at the conclusion of said predetermined deduction cycle.

25. (New) The financial transaction system of claim 21, wherein said consumer receives rewards in exchange for purchases made using said credit card account.

26. (New) The financial transaction system of claim 21, wherein the predetermined deduction cycle is shorter than a billing cycle for said credit card account.

27. (New) A computer-based method for conducting financial transactions comprising:

issuing, by an issuing financial institution, a credit card account to a consumer;
storing data representative of an original line of credit amount available for purchases using said credit card account, and an identification of a linked deposit account, said

deposit account maintained at a second financial institution other than said issuing financial institution;

receiving, via a payment network, at least one credit card transaction message, said transaction message containing a transaction amount;

reducing an available credit limit of said at least one credit card account based at least in part on said transaction amount associated with said at least one credit card transaction message;

determining an automatic deduction amount based at least in part on the result of adding the transaction amounts of each of said at least one credit card transaction messages received during a predetermined deduction cycle;

automatically initiating a direct debit at the conclusion of said predetermined deduction cycle to said deposit account maintained at said second financial institution in the amount of said automatic deduction amount, and

refreshing, in response to successful completion of said direct debit, said available credit limit to the full amount of said original line of credit amount.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said predetermined deduction cycle is agreed upon by said consumer at the time said at least one credit card account is set up.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said predetermined deduction cycle is determined by said issuing financial institution.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising generating on a regular basis a billing statement containing a listing of each separate purchase made using said credit card account and containing a listing of each credit posted to said credit card account from said

deposit account as a result of said automatically initiating a direct debit at the conclusion of said predetermined deduction cycle.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising storing information relating to rewards provided to the consumer in exchange for use of the credit payment card.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the predetermined deduction cycle is shorter than a billing cycle for said credit card account.